

will ever retire from public service. As a testimony to his tireless work in the community, a family center and a local shelter have both been named in his honor. He has received numerous awards from groups such as Florida's teachers, firefighters, children's advocates, and the American Lung Association. I am certain his dedication to the community will continue.

Mr. Speaker, I commend State Representative Fred Lippman for his twenty years of service in the Florida House of Representatives.

#### RETIREMENT OF JAMES N. WOODRUFF

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 1998*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James N. Woodruff, who has recently retired after a distinguished career with the Office of Personnel Management and its predecessor, the Civil Service Commission.

It may seem unusual for the Congress to honor the service of a long-time Executive branch employee, but I can assure my colleagues that Jim served the Congress effectively for many years. The vast majority of Jim's tenure was devoted, either directly or in his supervisory capacity, to the drafting and analysis of measure addressing many of the most significant and complex Federal personnel issues. He contributed immeasurably to major initiatives such as the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Acts of 1970 and 1990, the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act of 1986, and the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978.

In addition, many members of personal and committee staffs have benefited from Jim's quick and able assistance over the years. Whether on the most arcane technical matters or the broadest constitutional concerns, Jim's expertise and counsel reflected sound judgment and were always readily available.

We would be remiss in allowing only the Executive branch to express regrets at Jim's departure. His career-long commitment to excellence is in the finest tradition of public service and we wish him well.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 1998*

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote numbers 520, 531, 532, and 533, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted 'aye' on each of these votes.

#### IN HONOR OF JACK HECHLER

#### HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 1998*

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the Congress' attention an individual

who has over the past decade made innumerable contributions promoting a better understanding of our institution and the federal government to visitors from around the world.

Jack Hechler, for the past ten years, has served as escort/interpreter for the well-regarded annual Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Staff Exchange Program. Begun in 1983, this exchange program has greatly contributed to improving the working relationship between the legislatures of the United States and Germany. Since 1988, Mr. Hechler has been the escort/interpreter for the German delegation which arrives each summer for a three week program in Washington and Members' districts.

Born and raised in Germany, Mr. Hechler graduated from American University in Washington, D.C., served in the U.S. Armed Forces, and for more than 37 years was an active Civil Service employee. Prior to his retirement, he served as Director of Policy, Plans, and Evaluation at the General Services Administration. Since his retirement, Mr. Hechler has provided escort and interpreting services for the Department of State and the U.S. Information Agency.

Mr. Hechler has been invaluable to the success of the Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Staff Exchange by providing continuity to the program which relies heavily on alumni volunteers. The ten member German delegations and the network of American alumni have come to depend on his insights, his wide breadth of knowledge of American history, and his composure. It is no wonder that the Federal Republic of Germany awarded him the Order of Merit for his work with this program.

Mr. Hechler has provided Congress with a great service for which I offer my appreciation and that of my colleagues.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE BY THE HOUSE, WITH AN AMENDMENT, IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2204, COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 1998*

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 602 and H.R. 2204, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998. In general, the purpose of H.R. 2204 is to authorize approximately \$4.1 billion in expenditures for the United States Coast Guard for fiscal year 1999. The U.S. Coast Guard is on the front lines every day, saving lives and preventing drugs from entering the country. They are the lead agency in the cleanup of oil spills and they help protect our nation's fisheries within our 200 mile exclusive economic zone. The funding authorized in this bill will enable them to continue to accomplish their important mission.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to devote the remainder of my time discussing the merits of Title VI of this bill. I rise strongly in support of Title VI because it is essentially H.R. 4235, the legislation that I introduced in July of this year. H.R. 4235 is entitled the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998. My bill, and Title VI of H.R. 2204, au-

thorizes appropriations through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct research, monitoring, education, and management activities for the prevention, reduction and control of Harmful Algal Blooms, hypoxia, *pfisteria* and other aquatic toxins.

Mr. Speaker, as you are well aware, the problems associated with Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) have been well documented. Recent occurrences of HABs include red tides in the Gulf of Mexico and the Southeast; brown tides in New York, New Jersey and Texas; ciguatera fish poisoning in Hawaii, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and shell fish poisonings in the Gulf of Maine, the Pacific Northwest, and the Gulf of Alaska. In addition, the recent outbreak of *pfisteria piscicida* in the Chesapeake Bay estuary is an example of how a naturally occurring species can explosively reproduce in our nation's coastal waters. Furthermore, according to NOAA, 53 percent of U.S. estuaries experience hypoxia—including a 7,000 square mile area in the Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana and Texas which creates a massive "dead zone" where little or no marine life exists.

Representing the western half of Louisiana's coastline, I am particularly sensitive to these problems as they affect not only the public health, but also my state's valuable fisheries resources. As I just relayed, however, these are not problems isolated to Louisiana or the Gulf of Mexico. Rather, it is a national problem that deserves a national approach.

Up to this point, research on the HAB problem has focused primarily on basic science, detection, and monitoring. One vital research need is a reliable technique for the rapid detection and identification of algal species and stages. Monitoring of water quality in order to forecast the onset or subsidence of algal blooms is another key research issue. Such monitoring also is important for understanding interactions between algal species and the environment and the relationship of algal species with other marine organisms.

The range of economic impacts from HAB outbreaks and the extent of those costs have spiraled. Economic losses have been documented from limited or restricted shellfish harvests, losses from reduced tourism and marine recreation due to aesthetically unpleasant areas, and panicked consumers who avoid purchasing seafood products. In addition, there are indirect costs associated with HABs, such as the medical costs of treating exposed people and diminished development of or investment in coastal resources.

The technical, legal, and managerial tools to address HABs may collectively exist within a variety of federal and state agencies. Currently, however, a structured and effective means to bring this expertise together to address HABs does not exist. The missions and goals of many agencies overlap in the coastal zone where HAB phenomena are pronounced. Although no single agency has the lead role for the federal government, NOAA and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are coordinating the efforts of several agencies and departments. At present, the goal of these efforts is to more effectively direct resources toward minimizing future HAB outbreaks and supporting research and monitoring efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 4235 to address this problem. H.R. 4235 was structured to ensure that much needed federal resources are effectively used to address our nation's